

REMARKS

This is in response to the final Office Action dated September 24, 2003, which was paper #7 of the present application. This amendment is filed with a request for continued examination and petition for extension of time that extends the time for response to Monday , January 26, 2004. Claims 1-51 are pending. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application, as amended, are respectfully requested.

The final Office Action rejected claims 1-42 over U.S. Patent No. 6,338,082 to Schneider (the Schneider patent). Applicants submit that the Schneider patent neither describes nor suggests the invention defined by the presently pending claims. Briefly, the Schneider patent pertains to domain name registration, while the present application describes a domain manager that allows users to manage and modify existing domain name registrations and associated information.

What the Schneider patent describes is a system that determines that a particular domain name is currently not registered, by checking the DNS name servers, and facilitates filling out an application form to register an unregistered domain name. The described system only operates on the domain names entered into the address line of a browser. Because of this, the Schneider patent system only considers single names. If a name is entered in a browser and is determined to not be registered, the user is offered the opportunity to fill out a form to apply to register that domain name. All that is done is fill out the form. See Schneider patent, col. 13, ll. 22-25 ("the user completes a NIC registration form in step 360. The form is then submitted in step 364 to the proper NIC authority for processing."); col. 13, ll. 43-45 (a registration form is displayed (as in step 360) as a result of processing the registration request in step 410."); and col. 16, ll. 3-6 ("the completed NIC registration form can be sent to such a registrar and processed in a way that is transparent to the user and does not interfere with the current user's on-line navigational session."). Presumably the form is filled out on the user's computer and forwarded to the registrar by e-mail, but that is not clear from the teachings of the Schneider patent.

There is no suggestion in the Schneider patent of a system or method that allows a user to directly manage multiple domain names. Rather, the Schneider patent is directed to a service that simplifies the registration process when the user happens upon a domain name that is not registered.

The Claims Distinguish over the Schneider Patent

The application describes methods and systems that allow the registrant of a plurality of domain names to view and directly manage the domain records corresponding to these domain names and to effect changes to these domain records in a DNS root server. In a preferred embodiment, one method provides a view of a domain management function screen that lists a number of domain names registered to one user and also lists a number of different domain management functions. Such an embodiment allows the user to see a number of domain names and manage those domain names through a series of menus starting from the base menu. Managing a plurality of domain names, in part by displaying them together on a management function select screen or view of a graphical user interface, is neither taught nor suggested by the Schneider patent. The Schneider patent operates within the context of the address line of a conventional browser and does not suggest implementing a range of domain management functions.

Consequently, claims 1-13 distinguish over the Schneider patent by reciting "providing on a client machine a domain management function select screen listing a plurality of domain names including a first domain name and a second domain name and listing a plurality of user selectable domain management functions." This allows the efficient management of a number of domain names at once. Nothing similar is described in the Schneider patent, which operates within the context of the address line of a conventional browser for a single entered domain name. None of the other references of record teach or suggest the invention of claim 1. As such, claim 1 and its dependent claims 2-13 distinguish over the art of record and are in condition for allowance.

Claim 14 is directed to a method that uses a graphical user interface to show current information related to a domain name record and to show a user's options for changing that record. The changes are then propagated to the DNS root server. Claim 14 distinguishes over the art of record by reciting "providing on a first computer a domain management function view of a graphical user interface (GUI), the domain management function view listing an active domain and a plurality of user selectable domain management functions." The Schneider patent does not discuss or suggest anything with respect to providing user access to a plurality of domain management functions through a graphical user interface. Consequently, claim 14 and its dependent claims 15-33 distinguish over the art of record and are in condition for allowance.

Claim 34 is directed to a computer program that uses a graphical user interface to show current information related to a domain name record and then show a user's options for changing that record. The changes are propagated to the DNS root server. Claim 34 distinguishes over the Schneider patent by reciting "program code for displaying a domain management function select view listing a registrant name, an active domain and a plurality of user selectable domain management functions." The Schneider patent does not discuss or suggest anything with respect to providing user access to a plurality of domain management functions through a graphical user interface. Consequently, claim 34 and its dependent claims 35-42 distinguish over the art of record and are in condition for allowance.

Finally, newly added claims 43-51 distinguish over the art of record by reciting "providing on a first computer a domain management function select screen identifying a registrant name, an active domain and a plurality of user selectable domain management functions."

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the application and entrance of these amendments are respectfully requested.


If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at the Los Angeles, California telephone number (213) 337-6742 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance.

If there are any fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-1314.

Respectfully submitted,
HOGAN & HARTSON L.L.P.

Date: January 26, 2004

By: _____


William H. Wright
Registration No. 36,312
Attorney for Applicant(s)

500 South Grand Avenue, Suite 1900
Los Angeles, California 90071
Phone: 213-337-6700
Fax: 213-337-6701